

Today's News - Tuesday, February 9, 2010

- Weinstein waxes oh-so poetic about "Twilight Visions" and vintage surrealist photography: it "might just be the necessary correctives to the virtual sterility of digital imagery."
- IMBY (yes, in my back yard): an online tool to determine how economically wind and PV systems will operate and estimate how many years it will take to recover the system's cost.
- China gears up to salvage fire-gutted CCTV tower (probably).
- It's local vs. foreign (well...100 miles away) in battle to win design contract for affordable housing project in Aspen.
- Gardner thinks H3's LC3 theater atop the Beaumont at Lincoln Center will play nice with its neighbors; besides, what's already been done "has wrought such a change...that the new addition should make little difference."
- A call for University of Saskatchewan to look beyond Collegiate Gothic for new project: it has served its purpose, but it's "dead architecture" now.
- Will the third design for tallest tower close to Liverpool's historic waterfront pass muster (it is, after all, at least 16 feet shorter than before - wow).
- Even more contentious are plans to replace an alternative arts collective (and bar) in Hackney with a drum-shaped Art'otel (it was approved anyway).
- In Charleston, most are pleased with plans to save rather than demolish a 1965 federal building; if all goes well, it will be a 5-star hotel.
- Baillieu reviews design for a new - and very green - service station: "The trouble is, having arrived you might never want to leave" - bring on the organic apple juice!
- An eyeful of some of the Solar Decathlon Europe entries heading to Madrid this summer.
- Santa Monica dresses up another parking garage: a "ballsy" project by Ball Nogues.
- Meanwhile, in the Santa Monica Mountains, O'Herlihy calls it a wrap on a typical 1960s stucco home (you know it's not "typical" anymore).
- A guide to Buenos Aires architecture: "an impressive sampling of the city's heritage and utopian ambitions" (great video).
- Architect of the Capitol in trouble with watchdog group for increased budget request.
- Call for entries: GSA Design Excellence Program issues two (count 'em - TWO!) RFQs for A/E services.
- Call for entries: 2010 Best Firms to Work For (U.S & Canada).
- How could we resist giving a plug to Unhappy Hipsters and their "deadpan captions" for Dwell Magazine's inhabited (but unsmiling) interiors.

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Twilight Visions: Vintage Surrealist Photography Sheds New Light on Architecture: An exhibition and book of photographs of Paris between the wars might just be the necessary correctives to the virtual sterility of digital imagery. By Norman Weinstein- [ArchNewsNow](#)

IMBY: See How Renewable Energy Works in Your Backyard: NREL's new online analytical tool, [In My Backyard](#)...[to] determine how economically wind and PV systems will operate in their locations...estimates how many years it will take...to recover the system's cost. - National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) / US Department of Energy

China Prepares to Salvage CCTV Tower: ...a year after the structure was gutted by a blaze sparked by fireworks...a joint committee convened...is expected to affirm the structural soundness of the 44-story Television Cultural Center... -- Ole Scheeren/Rem Koolhaas/Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [\[images\]](#) - [Wall Street Journal](#)

Council delays Burlingame Ranch affordable housing project architect decision: ...allowing the competing architects, one local and one from Boulder, to reprise and...produce more easily digestible information, primarily for the public's benefit... -- OZ Architecture; Poss Architecture- [Aspen Daily News](#) (Colorado)

Design of black box theater appears to fit in well with rest of Lincoln Center: For those of you who worry about the potential desecration of the Vivian Beaumont Theatre...seeks to be unobtrusive, and indeed it seems so...In its geometric rigidity, the new theater looks as though it will play well with the surrounding architecture... By James Gardner -- H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture; Diller Scofidio + Renfro- [The Real Deal](#) (NYC)

Op-Ed: Don't push 'dead architecture': University of Saskatchewan's College Quarter/Clarion Project...Collegiate gothic, for all purposes, is "dead architecture." It has served its purpose...architects, given the contract to design buildings on campus, should be accepted as professional experts to create appropriate designs for the site... - [Saskatoon Star-Phoenix](#) (Canada)

Tallest tower in Liverpool redesigned again: ...proposed 165m-tall, 54-storey skyscraper is at least the third design to have been drawn up...for the site close to Liverpool's historic waterfront...£130 million plans are 5m-shorter than the previous proposals... -- [Leach Rhodes Walker](#) [\[images\]](#) - [The Architects' Journal](#) (UK)

Squire & Partners' Art'otel bags approval: ...contentious 18-storey scheme...will replace alternative arts collective The Foundry...approved despite a critical review by design watchdog CABE which was concerned about the maintenance and low quality appearance of the facade. [\[images\]](#) - [The Architects' Journal](#) (UK)

L. Mendel Rivers Federal Building rezoning advances: Owners plan to renovate structure as 5-star hotel...rather than demolish... -- [John Califf/Geiger, Califf and Player \(1965\)](#) [\[image\]](#) - [Charleston Post and Courier](#) (South Carolina)

Take the next exit for the green motorway service station: The trouble is, having arrived you might never want to leave..."a rural oasis"...it's the design that will put it on the architectural map...interior looks like the business-class lounge of a Scandinavian airport...Bring on the organic apple juice, the carrot cake and the hand-thrown pottery. By Amanda Baillieu -- [Glenn Howells](#) [\[image\]](#) - [Guardian](#) (UK)

Solar Decathlon hits the road to catch some Spanish sun: Madrid will host Solar Decathlon Europe 2010 competition this summer...19 universities across the globe were invited to participate... [\[images\]](#) - [Gizmag](#) (Australia)

Spruce Up a Parking Lot: ...Angelinos can boast some of the prettiest parking structures in the country. One of the latest to the game is Pugh + Scarpa's dressed up garages for the redeveloped Santa Monica Place mall... -- Ball Nogues Studio [\[images\]](#) - [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

In the Santa Monica Mountains, call it a wrap: It was your typical 1960s stucco home...Rather than tear it down and start over...gave it a second skin...sustainable material, Textilene 90...a PVC-coated polyester fabric...to withstand solar abuse and to reduce heat gain...The result: an ethereal dwelling that appears on the hillside at night like a glowing paper lantern. -- [Lorcan O'Herlihy](#) [\[slide show\]](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#)

A detective's guide to Buenos Aires architecture: ...neighborhoods offer an impressive sampling of the city's heritage and utopian ambitions. -- [Alejandro Machado; Eduardo Rodriguez Ortega; Virginio Colombo](#) [\[images, video\]](#) - [GlobalPost](#)

Watchdog Groups Slam Architect of the Capitol for \$690 Million Budget Request: ...oversees maintenance of the sprawling Capitol complex buildings and grounds, has requested a 15% increase over last year...at a time when President Obama and Congress are calling for government-wide spending restraint. - [FOXNews.com](#)

Call for entries/Request for Qualificationa/RFQ: Lead Design Architect - New U.S. Federal Building, South Florida; deadline: Mar 08, 2010- U.S. General Services Administration / GSA Design Excellence Program

Call for entries/Request for Qualificationa/RFQ: A/E Services for the Southern Maryland Courthouse Annex Project; deadline: Mar 9, 2010- U.S. General Services Administration / GSA Design Excellence Program

Call for entries: 2010 Best Firms To Work For (U.S & Canada); deadline: April 23, 2010- ZweigWhite

Dwell Gets a Gag Gift on Its Birthday: A mischievous blog called Unhappy Hipsters has taken on Dwell magazine...With its deadpan captions..."a place to say, 'Oh, unhappy hipster, you picked the concrete floors and the gravel yard; at least pretend you like it.'" [links]- New York Times



Morphosis: Cahill Center, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

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